Balochistan PAC slams health dept over irregularities

Finds Rs30m illegal procurement of medicine, Rs22.8m stock missing

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Balochistan Assembly on Friday expressed strong displeasure at the Health Department's persistent failure to act on directives regarding major financial irregularities, illegal procurements and missing medical supplies at Quetta's Sandeman Provincial Hospital.

Presided over by PAC Chairman Asghar Ali Tareen, the committee reviewed a special audit of Sandeman Provincial Hospital and several audit paras relating to the Health Department.

Key findings included the illegal procurement of medicines worth Rs30.02 million, missing drugs valued at Rs22.83m and overpriced oxygen cylinders that caused a Rs1.34m loss.

According to the audit report, hospital administrations purchased medicines worth Rs30.02m between 2017 and 2022. However, discrepancies were found between supply orders and bills, with one company receiving the order and another company receiving payment. The audit also revealed that stock registers and inspection reports were missing from official records. The Health Department clarified that the company Health Tech Quetta was an authorised distributor of Frontier Dactrol Ltd Peshawar and handled both supply and payment. However, the committee found this explanation unsatisfactory.

"Eight months have passed since the PAC issued directives, yet there has been no result," the PAC chairman remarked. "The responsible officers must be identified, and if directives are ignored, an FIR should be filed and a report submitted to the committee."

The committee decided that any officer failing to provide the required records would be removed from their post. Committee member Safia Bibi stressed that it was mandatory to satisfy the PAC's enquiries, while Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai warned that non-compliance with the committee's decisions would result in stern recommendations for action.

Mr Noorzai said that violations of the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules had occurred and expressed dismay that no progress had been made despite an eight-month lapse. The committee directed that a comparative analysis be conducted between the rates of the concerned companies, warning of strict action if discrepancies were found.

The audit report also disclosed that medicines worth Rs22.83m disappeared from the Civil Hospital Quetta's store during the 2019-20 fiscal year. Investigations revealed that a former pharmacist failed to record entries due to illness, leading to serious data discrepancies. Despite repeated instructions, the pharmacist has yet to submit the complete record, causing deep concern among committee members.

The PAC directed the Health Secretary to launch a formal inquiry within a week and take disciplinary action against negligent officials. During the pandemic, oxygen cylinders were purchased at Rs40,000 per cylinder, despite the contract rate being only Rs537. This irregularity cost the government Rs1.34m. Moreover, all quotations were prepared in identical handwriting, raising serious questions about transparency and potential collusion.

The committee deferred this para but instructed the Health Department to produce all original records, agreements and relevant documents before the next meeting.

The PAC chairman emphasised that financial discipline and transparency are non-negotiable and directed all departments to submit comprehensive reports before the next meeting.

Members expressed deep concern over the Health Department's lack of preparedness, noting that the special audit covered a budget of Rs10.44 billion, and despite being given an opportunity in the previous meeting on Feb 14, 2025, no inquiry had been completed.

Frustrated by the department's repeated delays and disregard for directives, the PAC adjourned the meeting and gave the Health Department a final one-week deadline to provide the audit records and ensure compliance.

Failing that, the committee warned that the matter would be referred to the National Accountability Bureau or other investigative agencies for further action.

Grenade attack targets NHP office in Dera Murad Jamali

Seperately, a man was killed in Usta Muhammad town

By Ali Jan Mangi

DERA MURAD JAMALI: Unknown armed men attacked the National Highway Police (NHP) office in the main bazaar area of Dera Murad Jamali with a hand grenade, injuring one person and damaging the building, police said on Saturday.

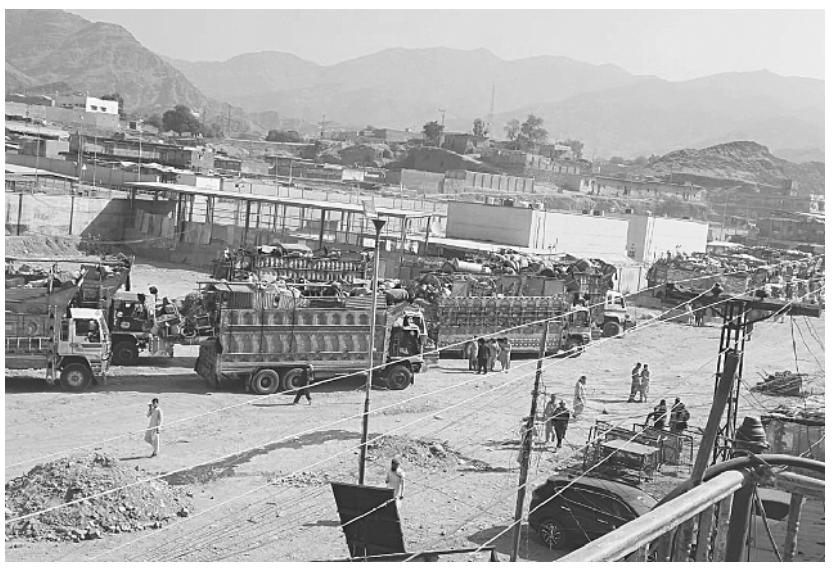
According to officials, an unidentified motorcyclist hurled a hand grenade at the NHP office, which exploded near the main gate, injuring Muhammad Ramzan, who was working at a nearby service station.

Police and security forces rushed to the scene soon after the explosion and shifted the injured to the Teaching Hospital Dera Murad Jamali. The windowpanes of the NHP office and nearby buildings were shattered by the blast.

Man gunned down

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, a man was shot dead by armed assailants in Usta Muhammad town. Police said the attackers opened fire near the High School Bridge, killing a man identified as Zafar Ullah Magsi on the spot. The body was shifted to the district hospital.

Police said the killing appeared to be the result of an old enmity. A case has been registered on the complaint of the victim's heirs, and efforts are underway to arrest the culprits.



VEHICLES repatriate Afghan families back to their homeland through the Torkham border on Saturday.—Dawn

Afghans return via Torkham

Continued from Page 1

accommodations for returning Afghan families at the NLC terminal in Jamrud and at safe roadside locations in Landi Kotal. Most of these families had been staying inside the vehicles they had hired for their journey back, with very limited resources.

It was also learnt that the Pakistani authorities on Saturday allowed empty vehicles, which had earlier transported returning families of refugees to Afghanistan and became stranded on the Afghan side following the sudden border closure on Oct 12, to return. The return of families continued late into Saturday, with officials stating that the process would continue in the coming days.

Ex-PTI men return empty-handed

Continued from Page 1

Friday. The jail trial continued from 10:30am to 4:30pm, he said, questioning the motive behind the hospital trip.

He said PTI leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid, Ejaz Chaudhry, Mian Mahmoodur Rasheed and Omer Sarfraz Cheema were united and standing by Imran Khan, who had repeatedly announced that he would not make any deals with the establishment or the government and would fight his cases on legal grounds.

Besides Mr Qureshi, who is expected to undergo a surgical procedure for gallbladder stones next week, Omer Sarfraz Cheema and Mian Mahmoodur Rasheed were also hospitalised. According to sources, the home department and jail administration were not offering proper medical services to the incarcerated leaders in Kot Lakhpat jail.

The lawyer said the courts had been ordering the shifting of Qureshi to the hospital for the past six weeks, but the administration was not complying with the directives. Eventually, he said, Mr Qureshi underwent two check-ups and was advised to be admitted to the hospital. "Qureshi is undergoing different lab tests and is expected to be operated upon during the next week," the lawyer stated.

He also claimed that Dr Yasmin Rashid was also denied regular physiotherapy sessions despite her medical condition.

Jordan and Germany say global force in Gaza needs UN mandate

Continued from Page 1

to see a clear mandate for this mission," Wadephul said.

The idea of the stabilisation force has drawn some criticism, with UN experts last month warning it would "replace Israeli occupation with a US-led occupation, contrary to Palestinian self-determination".

The UN has mandated international peacekeeping forces in the region for decades, including UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, which is currently working with the Lebanese army to enforce a November 2024 ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel.—AFP

Silence is complicity

Continued from Page 1

killed by a sniper in May 2022 while reporting from the Jenin refugee camp, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

She was a dual Palestinian-American citizen. Dozens of investigations proved, time and again, that she was targeted — yet there were no consequences.

That lack of accountability allowed Israel to continue and intensify its killing of journalists without fear of repercussions. It has even gone further, labelling journalists as "terrorists" to justify their murder.

Sadly, some media organisations echoed this propaganda, betraying their own profession by failing to verify Israel's claims.

The dehumanisation of Palestinians by the media extended to Palestinian journalists, who were not considered "white" enough to be defended in the name of "universal" human rights.

If the community of journalists does not defend its own — regardless of colour, race, nationality, ethnicity, or religion — then Israel's war on journalists will inevitably become a war on journalism itself. If this massacre is allowed to continue in Gaza today, unpunished and unaccounted for, it can happen anywhere, anytime, again.

Silence is complicity.

Silence is complicity.

The writer is a Palestinian journalist and Managing Director of AJ+. This article is published in collaboration with the World Editors Forum to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists

Fisherman's arrest exposes new Indian plot: Tarar

Continued from Page 1

of Kulbhushan Jadhav, the Indian naval officer convicted in Pakistan on espionage charges, describing the incident as "another malicious attempt by India to stage a false flag operation". He said Pakistan's intelligence and law enforcement agencies had once again foiled an Indian conspiracy and exposed New Delhi's "false narrative before the world".

"The world is well aware of India's malicious intentions and fabricated stories," he said, assuring the public that Pakistan's security agencies were "on high alert and fully prepared to counter any such plots".

The information minister further claimed that such operations were part of a recurring pattern by India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying: "The BJP government orchestrates such theatrics ahead of every election to stoke hostility and distract from its domestic failures."

Creation of more provinces need of the hour: Aleem

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday said the creation of new provinces was the need of the hour.

In a statement on X, he said: "I firmly believe that Pakistan's growing population and expanding administrative needs make the creation of new provinces an urgent national requirement. It is time to reorganise our four existing provinces — Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan — into three new administrative units each, named North, Central, and South, while preserving their original provincial identities."

Aleem Khan, who is also the president of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), an ally of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), termed his proposal a significant step toward improved governance.

He further said that such restructuring would bring governance closer to the people, ensure efficient delivery of public services, and allow chief secretaries, inspectors general of police, and high courts to function more effectively within manageable jurisdictions. "For decades, the debate on new provinces has remained limited to politics and slogans. Now is the time for serious, consultative action to make this vision a reality," he added.

Mr Khan said creating new provinces would not divide Pakistan but instead strengthen national unity, improve economic management, and enhance stability through balanced regional development. "Let us work together to establish administratively feasible, people-centered provinces, so that every citizen's voice is heard and their problems are solved at their doorstep," he remarked.

Meeting with Iran's envoy

Later, during a meeting with the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghadam, Communication Minister Aleem Khan reaffirmed his commitment to facilitating smoother cross-border movement of goods between Pakistan and Iran.

He expressed hope that bilateral trade between the two countries could reach Rs10 billion, emphasising that all necessary measures would be taken to address issues related to the entry and exit of Iranian trade trucks at border points.

Kh Asif points finger at India amid Kabul tensions

Continued from Page 1

long-standing position. "Any claim to the contrary is false and misleading," he added.

'Afghan regime suffers from internal factionalism'

Later, in a post on X, the defence minister said, "On the malicious and misleading comments made by the Afghan spokesperson, let it be categorically stated that there exists complete unanimity of views among all Pakistanis, including the country's political and military leadership, regarding Pakistan's security policies and its comprehensive approach toward Afghanistan.

"The people of Pakistan, especially those of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, are fully aware of the treacherous and barbaric patronization of Indian-sponsored terrorism by the Afghan Taliban regime and harbor no illusions about its intent or conduct. Ironically, it is the non-representative Afghan Taliban regime that suffers from deep internal factionalism, and is responsible for the continued oppression of Afghan ethnicities, women, children, and minorities, while stifling fundamental rights of expression, education, and representation.

"Even after four years in power, the regime has failed to fulfill the promises made to the international community, and now attempts to mask its lack of cohesion, stability, and governance capacity through rhetoric and by serving as a proxy for external elements.

"In contrast, Pakistan's policy to protect its citizens from cross-border terrorism and the perverted ideology of Khawarij remains unified, unwavering, and firmly anchored in national interest as well as in the pursuit of regional peace and stability."

FAZAIA RUTH PFAU MEDICAL COLLEGE
PAF BASE FAISAL, KARACHI
AIR UNIVERSITY
Certificate of Health Professional Education (CHPE)
Batch-07
Last Date:
Monday,
10th Nov 2025
The FRPMC, CHPE program is meticulously designed to equip health professionals, contemporary teaching strategies, assesment technique, curriculum development skills and empowering them to shape the future of healthcare.
Program Structure
CHPE Program is a Six (06) months blended program, with three face-to-face sessions of five days each in three modules.
Unique Features
• Safe and Conductive environment
• Formative feedback practices
• Eminent guest lectures
• E-learning opportunities
• personnel-mentoring program
Course Fees
Faculty Outside: Rs 60,000/-
FRPMC Faculty: Rs 50,000/-
Admission Criteria
Sixteen years of education in the discipline of:
• MBBS/BDS or equivalent
• BS Nursing
• BS Allied Health Sciences
Note: Valid registration with the regulatory body if applicable
How to Apply
Download and fill Application Form available on the website, www.frpmc.edu.pk and submit along with a Pay Order of Rs. 2,500/- in favor of "FAZAIA RUTH PFAU MEDICAL COLLEGE, KARACHI" (NTN # 639846-7).
For Queries:
Email: dme@frpmc.edu.pk
Phone: 0311-2822382/
0321-2587123
Send your application via courier to:
Medical Education Department, Fazaia Ruth Pfau Medical College, PAF Base Faisal, Main Shahra-e-Faisal, Karachi-74350.